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REMARKSStatus Summary

Claims 1-50 are pending in the present application. No claims have been added, and no claims are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-50 will remain pending.

Telephone Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants' representative, Gregory A. Hunt, appreciates the Telephone Examiner Interview granted him on September 13, 2007. In the Telephone Examiner Interview, the proposed claim amendments where the claims are amended to emphasize that the NAT learning in the media gateway is performed based on at least one media packet in the media session between the communicating entities. Support for the amendment is found, for example, on page 11, line 19 through page 12, line 2 of the present specification.

In the Interview, it was further discussed that Maier teaches using a test packet this is separate from the media stream for performing the NAT learning. Applicants further argued that in Maier, the test packet originates from behind the network address translator so that the traversal client, which is also behind the network address translator, can learn the translation being performed by its local network address translator. In contrast, the claimed subject matter, by performing NAT learning on the received media packets, allows the network address translation performed by a remote network address translator to be learned.

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In the Telephone Examiner Interview, the difference between claims 6 and 7 was also discussed. In particular, it was indicated that claim 6 recites learning the source network address whereas claim 7 recites learning the source transport address.

In the Examiner Interview, the Examiner indicated that his search would be updated upon receipt of our response.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 7, 18, 19, 22, 46, 48, and 50 have been objected to by the Examiner for various informalities. In response, claims 6, 18, 22, 46, 48, and 50 have been amended to remedy the objected to informalities.

Claim 7 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Specifically, the Examiner states that claim 7 repeats the limitation of learning the source network address from the initial media packet and broadcasting to a plurality of network interface cards. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that claim 7 pertains to the learning and broadcasting of a source transport address whereas claim 6 (from which claim 7 depends) claims the extraction of and broadcasting the source network address. Because claim 7 properly limits claim 6, Applicants submit that claim 7 is in proper dependent form.

Claim 19 was objected to because the claim language including "internal media processor" did not match the "external media processor" language of claim 18. Instead of amending claim 19, Applicants amended claim 18 to remedy the informality. Support

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for the amendment may be found on page 23, lines 8-21 of Applicants' specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claim 19 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 9, 14, 15, 20-25, 27-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0128554 to Maher, III et al. (hereinafter, "Maher"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 20, and 30 respectively recite a method, a media gateway, and a computer program product for per session NAT learning in a media gateway. Each of the claims has been amended to clarify that a media session includes media packets exchanged between communicating entities. The claims have further been amended to clarify that at least one initial media packet of the media packets exchanged between the communicating entities in the media session is used to learn the source address assigned by a network address translator. Thus, each of independent claims 1, 20, and 30 recites that one of the media packets exchanged between the communicating entities in a media session is used by a media gateway to learn the source address assigned by a network address translator.

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Maher of a method, a media gateway, or a computer program product where at least one initial media packet of media packets exchanged between communicating entities in a media session is used to learn the source address assigned by a network address translator. In contrast to using one or more of the media packets exchanged between communicating entities in a media session to perform NAT learning, Maher teaches that

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a test packet that is separate from the media packets exchanged between communicating entities in the media session is used to learn the source address assigned by a network address translator. For example, MaHer states:

The traversal client uses this information to send a test packet (also referred to as a spoof packet).

...

The network processing system can learn the NAPT mapping used by examining the source information on the test packet. (See paragraphs [0092] and [0095] of MaHer.)

In the above-quoted passages, MaHer indicates that a test packet, rather than a media packet that is part of the media session, is used to identify the address assigned by a network address translator. This distinction is further highlighted by the call flow diagram in Figures of MaHer. In Figure 6 of MaHer, the test packet is sent in line 3 of the call flow diagram. The media packets are exchanged in lines 7 and 8 of the call flow diagram. The test packet is sent before the media session is established in the call flow diagram in Figure 6 of MaHer and thus cannot be one of the media packets in the media session as claimed. Thus, MaHer teaches the use of a test packet that is separate from the media session to learn the source address assigned by a network address translator. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5, 9, 14, 15, 20-25, and 27-35 as anticipated by MaHer should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8, 10-13, and 36-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MaHer in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.

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2003/0106067 to Hoskins et al. (hereinafter "Hoskins"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-8 and 10-13 depend from claim 1 and claims 36-46 depend from claim 30. As stated above, Maher fails to teach or even suggest the learning of a source address from a media packet belonging to a media stream. Hoskins likewise lacks such a teaching or suggestion. Hoskins is directed to the integration of gateway services, such as Network Address Translation (NAT), firewalls, proxies, tunneling, and/or Virtual Private Networking (VPN), into RF cable devices, such as cable modems and/or set-top boxes, which provides additional capabilities for accessing the internet over an RF cable connection. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of the learning of a source address from a media packet belonging to a media stream. Thus, Hoskins fails to bridge the substantial gap existing between the claimed subject matter and Maher. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-8, 10-13, and 36-46 are patentable over the combination of Maher and Hoskins and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-19 and 47-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maher in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0131165 to Ebisawa et al. (hereinafter "Ebisawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16-19 depend from claim 1 and claims 47-50 depend from claim 30. As stated above, Maher fails to teach or even suggest the learning of a source address from a media packet belonging to a media stream. Ebisawa likewise lacks such a teaching or suggestion. Ebisawa is directed to a talking equipment adapter that is used to control the use of a digital communications line and an analog communications line

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that transmits call information. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of the learning of a source address from a media packet belonging to a media stream. Thus, Ebisawa fails to bridge the substantial gap existing between the claimed subject matter and Maher. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16-19 and 47-50 are patentable over the combination of Maher and Ebisawa and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maher in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0212999 to Cai (hereinafter "Cai"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 depends from claim 20. As stated above, Maher fails to teach or even suggest the learning of a source address from a media packet belonging to a media stream. Cai likewise lacks such a teaching or suggestion. Cai is directed to the use of a set top box to provide video telephony over a cable access network infrastructure. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of the learning of a source address from a media packet belonging to a media stream. Thus, Cai fails to bridge the substantial gap existing between the claimed subject matter and Maher. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26 is patentable over the combination of Maher and Cai and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

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If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

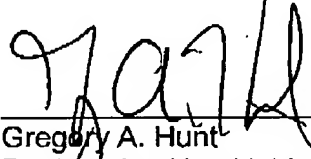
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON, TAYLOR & HUNT, P.A.

Date: September 13, 2007

By: _____


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